433 during the crisis reorganization occurred: more emphasis was then put on cereal production and less on dairy farming. Beginning with 1933 the output began to rise and in 1938 it had almost reached again the 1927 level.

642 Estonia as a young republic underwent several constitutional changes. The first Constitution, passed in 1920,[1] was extremely liberal. The Estonian people exercised their power through a [646] referendum and a one-chamber parliament (Riigikogu) which comprised one hundred members. Candidates for Riigikogu were nominated by various political parties and elected by the 643 people for a three-year term. The executive branch was comparatively weak, and was composed usually of a coalition of representatives of several parties. There was no separately elected President, and the head of the State was the Prime Minister, called Riigivanem 48 ('State Elder'),

1/ [June 15, 1920 -- Analyst]

642 (Riigivolikogu), made up of 80 members, and the State Council (Riiginõukogu), comprising 40 members, 10 of them appointed by the President. Both chambers were elected for a five-

643 year term. It also provided for an elected President; accordingly, on April 23, 1938, K. Päts was elected first President of Estonia. The old political parties were still banned, but the "time of silence" was over and the people had again their change to speak in the parliament through her elected representatives from various professional groups. Although Päts has been sharply criticized for his dictatorial measures, he is hailed also as a great statesman who steered the nation through the dangers of Nazism to which the VABS agitation wanted to draw her. Political life was now more mature and sober than in the time of bargainings between the numerous political 54- parties.

661 Ministry of Internal Affairs). The nightly arrests of people started as early as July, 1940.

[643] President K. Päts was forced to resign on July 23, and in August of the same year he and his family were deported to Ufa, USSR. No information has ever been given to the Estonian people about their former president. General J. Laidoner and many higher officers were also deported in the same summer, as were the majority of former ministers, among them Jaan Tõnisson, former Prime Minister and one of the most prominent Estonian leaders during the previous four decades. Nearly 10,000 people were arrested and deported during the first year of occupation. Some 2,000 people were executed in Estonia. Hitler's war preparations against the USSR incited the Communists to speed up their deportations. On the nights of June 13 and 14

725 started to desert and to escape again across the Gulf of Finland.

727 642 During the German occupation Estonia was ruled by a Governor-General (Generalkommissar) and by provincial governors in each county. An Estonian puppet government was also appointed, headed by Dr. Hjalmar Mäe, which, however, lacked the confidence of the Estonian people.

668 [643] Estonian patriots, under the leadership of Professor Jüri Uluots, the last Prime Minister, tried everything to restore Estonian independence. But the Germans did not grant independence to any conquered nation, and so gradually an underground resistance movement grew in all the conquered countries. Resistance cells were working underground also in Estonia.[1] The Gestapo discovered them and arrested many

[1] [For wartime partisans see cat 116, pp 66-68--Analyst]

721 Estonian capital. In that emergency the demoralized German Wehrmacht was no longer able
[643] to defend Estonia. Professor Uluots made the decision then[1] to support the mobilization in Estonia which the Germans had announced, and his proclamation effected the registration of 45,000 men. Although Estonian regiments were poorly equipped, they knew what was at stake; for several months they held the front, making it possible for many thousands of Estonians to escape to the West. After Finland was forced to accept the Soviet armistice on September 4, 1944; the Russians turned all their strength to the Baltic and rolled over it in a few weeks. On September
721 725 22, 1944, Tallinn fell. The Estonian units, formed at the end of the German occupation, were cut off from retreat and the majority of them became again undercover "Forest Brothers."[2] Refugees

[1] [March 9, 1944; see cat. 116, p. 69 -- Analyst]
[2] [See cat. 116, pp. 66-67 -- Analyst]

643
642 The President in the new Constitution[1] was given more power than the Riigivanem, or Prime Minister, had according to the first Estonian Constitution. The President was given the right to dissolve the Riigikogu and to delay the application of its legislation. He could govern by decree between parliamentary sessions, but could not interfere with the budget. The President was elected for a term of six years. He, in turn, appointed the government of the Republic. A vote of nonconfidence by the House of Representatives did not lead to the resignation of the government or its individual members, as would have occurred under the first Estonian Constitution. The fate of the government depended on the President, who had the power to dismiss the government or to call for new elections of the House of Representatives, or to turn over

[1][See cont. 11c, -315- p. 314--Analyst]

643
642 the question to the State Council for a decision. Yet even if the State Council agreed with the House in its nonconfidence vote, the President had the authority to make the final decision. But if he chose to decree a new election for the House of Representatives and this newly elected House also passed a vote of nonconfidence in the same government, the President had to dismiss the government or individual members. When the State Council disagreed with the decision of the House, the President had to appoint new members to the State Council.

Bills could be introduced by the government, with the consent of the President, and by at least a fifth part of the House of Representatives. The President, with the consent of the State Assembly, was authorized to call a plebiscite on certain important questions. The

[Estonian constitution as of November, 1947]

642 s) Road building; direction of local transport and communications;

n) Labor legislation;

o) Direction of public health;

p) Direction of social maintenance;

q) Direction of elementary, secondary and higher education;

r) Direction of the cultural, educational and scientific organizations[1] and institutions of the Estonian SSR, and administration of the cultural, educational and scientific organizations and institutions of all-Republican importance;

s) Direction and organization of physical culture and sports;

t) Organization of the judicial organs of the Estonian SSR;

u) Granting the rights of citizenship of the Estonian SSR;

v) Amnesty and pardon of citizens convicted by judicial organs of the Estonian SSR;

w) Organization of the military formations of the Estonian SSR;

x) Establishment of the representation of the Estonian SSR in international relations.

Chapter III. The Higher Organs of State Power of the Estonian Soviet Socialist Republic

646 Art. 20. The highest organ of state power in the Estonian SSR is the Supreme Soviet of the Estonian SSR.

Art. 21. The Supreme Soviet of the Estonian SSR is elected for a term of four years by the citizens of the Estonian SSR voting by election districts on the basis of one deputy for every 10,000 of the population.

Art. 22. The Supreme Soviet of the Estonian SSR exercises all rights vested in the Estonian SSR in accordance with articles 13 and 19[2] of the Constitution of the Estonian SSR, in so far as they do not by virtue of the Constitution, come within the jurisdiction of organs of the Estonian SSR that are accountable to the Supreme Soviet of the Estonian SSR, that is, the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Estonian SSR, the Council of Ministers of the Estonian SSR, and the Ministries of the Estonian SSR.

Art. 23. The Supreme Soviet of the Estonian SSR is the sole legislative organ of the Estonian SSR.

Art. 24. A law is considered adopted if passed by the Supreme Soviet of the Estonian SSR by a simple majority vote.

● [643] Art. 25. Laws passed by the Supreme Soviet of the Estonian SSR are published in the Estonian and Russian languages over the signatures of the President and Secretary of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Estonian SSR.

Art. 26. The Supreme Soviet of the Estonian SSR elects a Chairman of the Supreme Soviet and two Vice-Chairmen.

Art. 27. The Chairman of the Supreme Soviet of the Estonian SSR presides at the sittings of the Supreme Soviet of the Estonian SSR and has charge of the conduct of its business and proceedings.

1 [Errata: add "and institutions." Cf. Errata sheet, cat. 116, p. iii--Analyst]

2 [Cf. cat. 116, pp. 2-4--Analyst]

[Estonian Constitution as of November, 1947]

643 Art. 28. Sessions of the Supreme Soviet of the Estonian SSR are con-
646 vened by the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Estonian SSR twice a year.
Extraordinary sessions are convened by the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Estonian SSR at its discretion or on the demand of one-third of the deputies to the Supreme Soviet of the Estonian SSR.

Art. 29. The Supreme Soviet of the Estonian SSR elects the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Estonian SSR, consisting of a President of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Estonian SSR, two Vice-Presidents, a Secretary of the Presidium and five members of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Estonian SSR.

643 Art. 30. The Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Estonian SSR is accountable to the Supreme Soviet of the Estonian SSR for all its activities.

Art. 31. The Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Estonian SSR:

a) Convenes the sessions of the Supreme Soviet of the Estonian SSR;

b) Gives interpretations of the laws of the Estonian SSR in operation;

c) Conducts nation-wide polls (referendums);

R45] d) Annuls decisions and orders of the Council of Ministers of the Estonian SSR, and likewise decisions and orders of the district Soviets of Working People's Deputies if they do not conform to law;

e) In the intervals between sessions of the Supreme Soviet of the Estonian SSR, releases and appoints Ministers of the Estonian SSR, on the recommendation of the Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Estonian SSR, subject to subsequent confirmation by the Supreme Soviet of the Estonian SSR;

f) Confers titles of honour of the Estonian SSR;

g) Exercises the right of pardoning citizens convicted by judicial organs of the Estonian SSR;

h) Appoints and recalls diplomatic representatives of the Estonian SSR to foreign states;

i) Receives the letters of credence and recall of diplomatic representatives accredited to it by foreign states.

646 Art. 32. The Supreme Soviet of the Estonian SSR elects a Credentials Committee to verify the credentials of the members of the Supreme Soviet of the Estonian SSR.

On the report of the Credentials Committee, the Supreme Soviet of the Estonian SSR decides whether to recognise the credentials of deputies or to annul their election.

Art. 33. The Supreme Soviet of the Estonian SSR, when it deems necessary, appoints commissions of investigation and audit on any matter.

It is the duty of all institutions and officials to comply with the demands of such commissions and to submit to them all necessary materials and documents.

Art. 34. A member of the Supreme Soviet of the Estonian SSR may not be prosecuted or arrested without the consent of the Supreme Soviet of the

[Estonian Constitution as of November, 1947]

646 Estonian SSR, or, when the Supreme Soviet of the Estonian SSR is not in session, without the consent of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Estonian SSR.

643 646 Art. 35. On the expiration of the term of office of the Supreme Soviet of the Estonian SSR, the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Estonian SSR orders new elections to be held within a period not exceeding two months from the date of expiration of the term of office of the Supreme Soviet of the Estonian SSR.

Art. 36. On the expiration of the term of office of the Supreme Soviet of the Estonian SSR, the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Estonian SSR retains its powers until the newly-elected Supreme Soviet of the Estonian SSR shall have formed a new Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Estonian SSR.

Art. 37. The newly-elected Supreme Soviet of the Estonian SSR is convened by the outgoing Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Estonian SSR not later than one month after the elections.

[646] 645 Art. 38. The Supreme Soviet of the Estonian SSR appoints the Government of the Estonian SSR, namely, the Council of Ministers of the Estonian SSR.

Chapter IV. The Organs of State Administration of the Estonian SSR

Art. 39. The highest executive and administrative organ of state power of the Estonian SSR is the Council of Ministers of the Estonian SSR.

Art. 40. The Council of Ministers of the Estonian SSR is responsible and accountable to the Supreme Soviet of the Estonian SSR, or, in the intervals between sessions of the Supreme Soviet of the Estonian SSR, to the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Estonian SSR.

Art. 41. The Council of Ministers of the Estonian SSR issues decisions and orders on the basis and in pursuance of the laws in operation of the USSR and the Estonian SSR, and of the decisions and orders of the Council of Ministers of the USSR, and verifies their execution.

Art. 42. Decisions and orders of the Council of Ministers of the Estonian SSR are binding throughout the territory of the Estonian SSR.

Art. 43. The Council of Ministers of the Estonian SSR:

a) Coordinates and directs the work of Republican and Union-Republican Ministries of the Estonian SSR and of other economic, administrative and cultural institutions under its jurisdiction; coordinates and directs the work of the authorized representatives of all-Union Ministries;

b) Prepares the national-economic plan of the Estonian SSR, transmits it to the Supreme Soviet of the Estonian SSR for its approval and adopts measures to carry it out;

c) Prepares the state budget of the Estonian SSR and draws up the local budgets of the Estonian SSR; transmits the state budget to the Supreme Soviet of the Estonian SSR for its approval and adopts measures for the fulfillment of the state and local budgets of the Estonian SSR;